

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A system of managing security for data processing applications, comprising:

directories in which the data processing applications are stored, said directories being organized in an n-level tree; and

a number of security registers which are selectively allocatable to any one of a plurality of said directories, each security register containing all rights or secrets which have been granted under the directory to which it has been allocated.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of managing security for data processing applications, comprising the steps of:

dynamically allocating a security register to one of a plurality of directories that are organized in an n-level hierarchy;

storing in [[an]] said allocated security register rights granted under the directory to which said security register has been allocated, according to given rules;

seeking [[the]] secrets presented in [[a]] the directory in which a data processing application is stored; and

[[c)]] verifying [[the]] knowledge of one or more rights at the level of said data processing application.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said allocating step is performed according to the following rules:

allocation of a security register to a current directory as soon as a right has been granted under this directory or said security register has been updated if a right has already been granted under this directory;

removing the allocation of a security register to a current directory when a new directory is selected except if the selected new directory is a child of the current directory; and

allocating the security register that was allocated [[the]] earliest to [[a]] said new directory if the security registers are all allocated.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein said seeking step is performed according to the following rule:

verifying that a secret presented is known in a current directory (Ni) or in a directory at a higher level of the hierarchy.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said seeking step comprises the following intermediate steps:

seeking a secret in the current directory at level (Ni) and verifying the existence of the secret within the application;

if said secret exists, verifying that presentation of the secret has succeeded;

if the presentation has succeeded, granting the right associated with the secret at the level ( $N_i$ ) of the current application;

if the presentation has failed, refusing to grant the right associated with the secret and terminating the attempted presentation;

if said secret does not exist within the current application at level ( $N_i$ ), determining whether this secret exists within the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$ ;

if said secret exists in the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$ , verifying that the presentation has succeeded;

if the presentation has succeeded, granting the right associated with the secret in the current application at level ( $N_i$ );

if the presentation has failed, refusing to grant the right associated with the secret and terminating the attempted presentation;

if the secret does not exist within the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$ , seeking the existence of the secret at the level of the application at level  $N(i-2)$  within the hierarchy and verifying that the presentation has succeeded;

and so on as far as the highest hierarchical level as long as the existence of the secret has not been discovered;

if the secret has not been discovered, terminating the attempted presentation.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the verifying step is performed according to the following rule:

authorization of a function requiring knowledge of a secret if and only if, within the hierarchy from the current application to the root application, a first secret is known to

at least one of the applications along a path in the hierarchy for which the current application and the application containing the secret are delimiters.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said verifying step comprises the following steps:

verifying that a security register is associated with a current application at level  $N_i$ ;

authorizing a function if the security register contains a required right and terminating the verification;

seeking the existence of a reference secret within the current application at level  $N_i$  if no security register is associated with the current application or if the associated register does not contain the required right;

refusing the function and terminating the verification if the secret exists within the current application;

verifying that a security register is associated with the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$  of the current application if the reference secret does not exist within the current application at level  $N_i$ ;

authorizing the function and terminating the verification if the security register associated with the parent application contains the right required for using the function;

seeking the existence of the reference secret within the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$  of the current application if no security register is associated with the parent application or if the associated security register does not contain the required right;

refusing the function and terminating the verification if the reference secret exists within the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$ ;

verifying that a security register is associated with the grandparent application at level  $N(i-2)$  of the current application along a path within the hierarchy from the current application towards the root application, if the reference secret does not exist within the parent application at level  $N(i-1)$ ;

and so on as long as the existence of the reference secret has not been discovered;

and

refusing the function and terminating the verification if the secret has not been discovered.